

CHILD CARE GSA SUBSIDY PROGRAM POLICY CHANGES

R 111853Z JAN 07 ZUI ASN-A00011000048 ZYB FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-11// TO ALCOAST BT UNCLAS //N01754// ALCOAST 015/07 COMDTNOTE 1754

SUBJ: CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM POLICY CHANGES A. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) BETWEEN US COAST GUARD AND GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (JULY 2006) NOTAL B. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC 101654Z JUL 06/ALCOAST 373/06 1. IN JULY 2006, THE COAST GUARD PARTNERED WITH THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA) TO MAKE CHILD CARE MORE AFFORDABLE FOR COAST GUARD MEMBERS. REF A WAS CREATED TO ASSIST MEMBERS TO LOCATE STATE LICENSED CENTER-BASED OR HOME-BASED CHILD CARE FACILITIES. IN ADDITION, A TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PROVIDING UP TO 4,500 DOLLARS PER CHILD PER YEAR BECAME AVAILABLE TO QUALIFYING PERSONNEL FOR CHILD CARE SERVICES RECEIVED AT COMMERCIAL CHILD CARE FACILITIES NATIONWIDE. REF B DESCRIBED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS NEW INITIATIVE. INITIALLY, THE FULL SUBSIDY WAS AVAILABLE TO ALL FAMILIES WITHOUT REGARD TO INCOME.

2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH CG CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (CDC) PROGRAM GUIDELINES, THE AMOUNT OF CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROVIDED TO CG MEMBERS IS BASED ON TOTAL FAMILY INCOME (TFI). EACH SUBSIDY IS PAID DIRECTLY TO THE CHILD CARE PROVIDER ON BEHALF OF THE CG MEMBER AND THE AMOUNT OF SUBSIDY IS LIMITED TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ACTUAL TUITION RATE CHARGED BY THE CHILD CARE PROVIDER AND THE AVERAGE TUITION RATE A CG MEMBER WOULD PAY IN A CG OPERATED CDC.

THE AVERAGE OUT OF POCKET TUITION COST FOR CG MEMBERS USING CG CDCS IS:

0-28,000	70.00 DOLLARS WEEKLY
28,001-34,000	85.00 DOLLARS WEEKLY
34,001-44,000	95.00 DOLLARS WEEKLY
44,001-55,000	108.00 DOLLARS WEEKLY
55,001-70,000	120.00 DOLLARS WEEKLY
70,000 AND ABOVE	132.00 DOLLARS WEEKLY

3. THIS NEW CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM HAS REACHED ITS MAXIMUM CAPACITY AND IT IS BEING RESTRUCTURED TO ENSURE THAT THE MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE IS DIRECTED TO FAMILIES WHO NEED THE MOST FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL, THE FOLLOWING REVISED ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA WILL BE IMPLEMENTED:

A. ONLY FAMILIES WITH AN ANNUAL TFI OF 75,000 DOLLARS OR LESS WILL QUALIFY FOR THIS PROGRAM.

B. ONLY FAMILIES WHERE BOTH SPOUSES ARE EMPLOYED FULL TIME, OR IN WHICH THE SPOUSE OF THE CG MEMBER IS WORKING AT LEAST 30 HRS PER WEEK, OR IS A FULL TIME STUDENT, WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM.

NOTE: A SIXTY DAY EXCEPTION MAY BE GRANTED FOR FAMILIES WHERE THE SPOUSE IS PURSUING EMPLOYMENT, HOWEVER THE EXCEPTION WILL NOT BE AUTOMATIC. A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR EXCEPTION TO THE POLICY MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE FAMILY ALONG WITH THE APPLICATION IN ORDER TO QUALIFY.

4. THE FOLLOWING CHANGES IN THE AMOUNT OF ANNUAL SUBSIDY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED:

A. IF TFI IS LESS THAN 45,000 DOLLARS PER YEAR, THE MAXIMUM YEARLY SUBSIDY WILL BE 4,500 DOLLARS FOR THE FIRST CHILD, 2,000 DOLLARS FOR THE SECOND CHILD, AND 1,000 DOLLARS FOR THE THIRD CHILD.

B. IF TFI IS BETWEEN 45,001 AND 55,000 DOLLARS PER YEAR, THE MAXIMUM YEARLY SUBSIDY WILL BE 3,000 DOLLARS FOR THE FIRST CHILD, 1,500 DOLLARS FOR THE SECOND CHILD. NO SUBSIDY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY.

C. IF TFI IS BETWEEN 55,001 AND 65,000 DOLLARS PER YEAR, THE MAXIMUM SUBSIDY WILL BE 2,000 DOLLARS FOR THE FIRST CHILD, 1,000 DOLLARS FOR THE SECOND CHILD. NO SUBSIDY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY.

D. IF TFI IS BETWEEN 65,001 AND 75,000 DOLLARS, THE MAXIMUM SUBSIDY WILL BE 1,000 DOLLARS FOR THE FIRST CHILD. NO SUBSIDY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY.

5. FAMILIES WHO CURRENTLY ARE ENROLLED IN THE CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM, AND WHOSE TFI EXCEEDS 75,000 DOLLARS PER YEAR WILL BE PERMITTED TO REMAIN IN THE PROGRAM THROUGH FY 07 (30 SEPTEMBER 2007). HOWEVER, THE TOTAL CHILD CARE BENEFIT WILL BE LIMITED TO 1,000 DOLLARS PER FAMILY.

6. FOR FAMILIES WHO CURRENTLY ARE ENROLLED IN THE CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM AND THE SPOUSE IS NOT EMPLOYED AT LEAST 30 HOURS PER WEEK OR ATTENDING SCHOOL FULL TIME, ALL SUBSIDY BENEFITS WILL BE DISCONTINUED EFFECTIVE 1 MARCH 2007. A SIXTY DAY EXCEPTION WILL BE GRANTED IF THE SPOUSE IS PURSUING EMPLOYMENT OR SCHOOL REGISTRATION, AND A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE BENEFIT IS SUBMITTED.

7. ALL OTHER REVISIONS TO THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON 1 MARCH 2007.

8. FAMILIES PARTICIPATING IN THE CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM WILL BE REQUIRED TO RECERTIFY THEIR TFI INFORMATION AND SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY 1 APRIL 2007. SUBSIDY BENEFITS WILL BE ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY.

9. **GSA WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE CHILD CARE LOCATOR AND APPLICATION SUBMISSION SUPPORT TO COAST GUARD MEMBERS. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MS. JUDY GONZALES AT 1-866-508-0371, OR BY EMAIL AT USCOASTGUARDCHILDCARE(AT)GSA.GOV. THE COAST GUARD POC FOR THIS PROGRAM IS MS. MARTA DENCHFIELD, DEPENDENT CARE PROGRAM MANAGER AT 202-475-5160, OR MARTA.E.DENCHFIELD(AT)USCG.MIL.**

10. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.

11. RELEASED BY RADM PAUL J. HIGGINS, DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY.
BT